



CHESTERFIELD MEWS

NEWS

Spring 2013

2013 Annual Meeting

The Chesterfield Mews Annual Meeting was held as scheduled on April 30, 2013 at Fairfax Circle Baptist Church. The strong sense of pride by all of us in the Mews was clearly demonstrated on this night. 43 neighbors attended in person and 55 additional neighbors attended by proxy. Four board positions were open with three candidates elected by the membership. The board will be responsible for nominating and filling the open position through recommendation by the nominating committee and subsequent vote by the new board. The strong sense of community was further underscored with seven candidates expressing an interest in serving on the board, the most in years. The three candidates receiving the greatest number of votes and being elected to the board were Gordon Silcox and Bill Saint of Colchester Brook, and Jimmy Xu of Readsborough. The nominating committee will propose a candidate at the May board meeting to fill the fourth position; this position will be decided at that time. Current President Bob Parker and the entire board wish to thank all the candidates for showing interest in serving the community.

New Fire Lane Parking is Coming

In February, the community received notice from the Fairfax Fire Marshal that Chesterfield Mews, originally built in the 1970's, does not meet today's fire lane access standards. After measuring roads and access throughout the Mews the board responded by submitting a proposal under a code modification provision. Under this proposal, new parking restrictions will include parking on only one side of most streets in the community. In any case, there will be changes for all roadways inside the community (remember Guysborough Drive from the circle to the service road is maintained by Virginia commonwealth). Once a plan is approved by the Fire Marshal, we will mark new fire lanes with yellow paint or signage. Cars parked in those lanes will be subject to towing. In the meantime, please be aware of other parked cars and if a car is already parked on one side of the street use that side to park and do not park directly across from the already parked vehicle. Modern emergency vehicles are larger than they were when our community was built and parking on both sides could block them from reaching someone.

Farewell to Three Board Stalwarts

Very special thanks go out to three community members who have made major contributions to the Mews while serving on the board: Jo Ann Andren, Nancy Minter, and Brian Saal.

Jo Ann has contributed on the board for countless years in just about every role imaginable. Most recently, she has served as liaison with our community grass and landscaping contractor, Professional Grounds, including coordinating any snow removal. Through Jo Ann's diligent work and vision, a comprehensive community-landscaping plan was developed which the board has used over the past 18 months to guide improvements around the entire community.

Over her years on the board, Nancy has served as president and most recently as vice president, chair of the architectural control committee, and as a member of the nominating committee. Nancy proved to be a steady, guiding influence, and her leadership enabled the board to work through several challenging issues.

Brian has served as treasurer and was known as one of the board's strongest advocates for grounds improvement. The board will miss his straightforward, can-do approach to tackling tough issues.

We all owe these three neighbors a debt of gratitude for their time and commitment to Chesterfield Mews.

Grounds Project Updates

Jo Ann Andren gave all attendees a brief history of the community's efforts to improve the common grounds. Work over the last year included an autumn grass seeding effort, updating of Kelly's Circle landscaping, new corner plantings on Colchester Brook and Eakin Park, an update to the front monument (entrance signage) area and new parking island landscaping. This spring and summer we should see all the new plants flourishing and growing. Further plans for the coming year include plantings around the circle and addressing erosion issues at the lower (South) ends of Colchester Brook and Readsborough.

Financial Condition: Solid

Treasurer Bruce Pincus provided an overview of the strong financial shape of Chesterfield Mews. The board spent operating funds to complete several grounds projects and has earmarked capital reserve

monies to complete the remaining projects approved for completion in 2012 -2013. With some extra effort on a few of our service contracts, the board approved a budget for fiscal 2013 which results in no dues increase for the year. All members should have received, in the mail, the notice for half the annual dues to be paid by May 31st.

New and Improved Trash and Recycling Schedule

As of May 1, the Mews is saving money on trash and recycling. We are retaining the services of AAA Trash and Recycling, now a division under the parent company of Republic Services.

Effective Friday, May 31, trash pick-up and recycling will both be on **Fridays**. Friday May 31 (the first Friday after Memorial Day weekend) will be **both** a Trash day and a recycling pick-up day. Monday June 3rd will **NOT** be a recycling pick-up day.

It will be a welcome change for us to not have to put out trash on one day and recycling on another. Look for signs around Kelly's Circle reminding you of this change during the prior week. This announcement is also posted on the home page of our website, www.inthemews.com

Bloom Days!

The Grounds Working Group is pleased to announce a wonderful community project to celebrate the blooming of the magnificent foliage in our neighborhood. This two-day event will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Refreshments will be served at Kelly's Circle following each day. A few of the specific projects we will address are:

1. Clearing of the "jungle" around the part of the neighborhood along Guysborough, Upper Eakin, Delburne, and Readsborough that borders Cravens Nursery.

2. Clean-up Guysborough around access road.

3. Clearing of debris (sticks, stones, bricks) at the bottom of Colchester Brook.

4. Clearing of the perimeter around aMewsmments and at the bottom of Readsborough.

5. Painting the curbs for fire lanes/parking (if our plan is approved by Fairfax County).

Look for flyers to be handed out within the next week and for an announcement on the home page of www.inthemews.com. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to get out and show some community spirit, not to mention a real fun project for your kids (and maybe even a good way for your middle- and high-school students to earn some last-minute community service hours).

Odds and Ends . . .

Communication. We use three primary methods to communicate with the residents of the Mews:

1. Our website, www.inthemews.com

2. Flyers or other hardcopies distributed to each household, for example: newsletters, grounds updates, and neighborhood socials, like the Halloween Parade.

3. Occasional E-mail "blasts" to a master neighborhood list, which now has about 70 E-mail addresses. If you wish to be added to the list, please send us an E-mail through the "Contact Us" section of www.inthemews.com

High School Graduation Day. Graduation day for the high school that serves the Mews, W. T. Woodson, is June 13. If you know any high school seniors who live in the neighborhood (and there are a few), please take a moment to congratulate them for a job well done and wish them well as they move on to the next phase of their lives.

While the board is in transition. Please make sure to take full advantage of the "Contact Us" section of www.inthemews.com for any questions or comments you might have.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

For information and contact with the board visit our community website: www.inthemews.com

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County Supervisor

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The Chesterfield Mews Community Association provides this newsletter for informational purposes only. It is not officially endorsed by CMCA. For official guidance, please refer to the official records of the association, maintained by the secretary.